

REMARKS

Claims 1-70 are pending in the application prior to entering this amendment.

The examiner allows claims 15-33, 39-44, and 54-65.

The examiner objects to claims 8, 12-13, 35-38, 46, 47, 49, 52-53, and 67-69 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner rejects claims 1-7, 9-11, 14, 34, 45, 48, 50-51, 66, and 70 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shono (U.S. Pat. No. 5,436,736).

The applicants amend claims 2-4, 8-10, 12-14, 35-38, 46-49, 52-53, 67-70 and cancel claims 1, 11, 34, 45, 50-51, and 66 without prejudice.

The application remains with claims 2-10, 12-33, 35-44, 46-49, 52-65, and 67-70 after entering this amendment.

The applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Claims Allowed

The applicants thank Examiner Natnael for allowing claims 15-33, 39-44, and 54-65.

Claims Allowable

The applicants rewrite claims 8, 12-13, 35-38, 46-49, 52-53, and 67-70 in independent form including all the limitations of the base and any corresponding intervening claims.

Claims 8, 12-13, 35-38, 46-49, 52-53, and 67-70 and their corresponding dependent claims 2-7, 9-10, and 14 are in condition for the examiner's allowance.

Claim Rejections Under §103

While the applicants continue to disagree with the examiner's interpretation of Shono, they have amended the claims to expedite issuance.

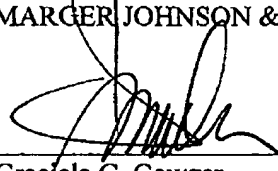
CONCLUSION

The applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all remaining claims. The applicants encourage the examiner to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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